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# You and Your Hockey Parents

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## Introduction

### **A resource package for coaches and hockey organizations.**

This is an outline of some information that you should arrange to present to the parents of your young hockey players. The Ontario Hockey Council encourages this form of communication because it believes that parents can play a positive role in helping your team meet its goals. However, parents should first understand the technical aspects of the game and should appreciate how hockey is being organized in your area.

By following the topics suggested in this guide, you can provide important information for the parent who is entering the world of 'organized' hockey for the first time. This outline is best suited for parents of Squirt, Novice (House League), Minor Atom and Atom players.

Parents become involved in hockey long before their child first puts on skates. Thus it is important that you hold this meeting very early in the season, preferably at the time that the player is registered and the team is picked.



## How to Use This Material

**1** Present the material to the parents immediately after the team is selected.

**2** The material can be presented in any of these ways:

- by one or more league representatives who visit all teams.
- by the coach of each team.
- by a league representative and the coach. (In this situation the league executive might present the general information while the coach presents the material as it relates to that specific team, e.g. strategy, club rules.)
- by printing some of the information and handing it out with registration forms.

Whichever method is selected, two or three meetings will be needed to cover all the information. Beyond providing parents with information on their child's team, these meetings will also enable you to become acquainted with each other.

The individual who presents the material should encourage questions and should be open and honest when answering.

**3** A league referee should be invited to the meeting to discuss the old and new playing rules.

**4** Use visual aids and handouts wherever possible as there is much resource material in the province, e.g. CAHA slides on equipment fitting, films from the Technical Director's Office. Addresses for resource materials are given on the last page.

**5** Plan your meeting well in advance so that any persons invited, or material and visual aids that have been requested will be ready when needed.

# Discussion Topics

## How the parent can prepare the hockey player for a safe experience

(Ideally you should hold this session at the time that parents register their child.)

What equipment should be bought? (Consult Level 1 and 2 notes from OHA Coaching Certification Program Instructors Manual, and CAHA slide show on equipment.) Sticks, helmet, faceguards, skates, etc.

Other ways of preparing the player: Nutrition; Conditioning-on ice and on land

## The organization and administration of minor hockey

In Canada — use the CAHA organization chart

In Ontario — use the OHA organizational chart and the aims and objectives of the Ontario Hockey Council

In Local Areas — chart, names of executives

Local Organization and Association Rules — e.g. releases, signing procedures, interpretation of rules, deadlines.

Coaching and referee certification programs — anyone is eligible. Midget players should be encouraged to become involved. At this age they can assist in coaching or refereeing in House Leagues.

## Levels of competition

Age ranges.

Instructional, House League, All-Star, Rep teams.

Play-offs and Championships — Local, Regional, Provincial. Tournaments.

## Playing Rules — Explanation, Interpretation

Existing rules

New rules this year:

- CAHA
- Regional — ODMHA, ODHA, TBAHA, OHA, OMHA, NOHA, MTHL
- Local — e.g. House League

Judgment calls — create most problems. (Give special attention to the fact that many rules involve split-second interpretations. The referee should emphasize that rules are not always black and white.)

## Cost of operating a hockey team

(Use own team as the example)

Registration fees to the CAHA, etc.

Uniforms and equipment (sticks, pucks, sweaters, crest, cleaning, repairs)

Ice time

Officials

Insurance

Tournament fees and tournament travel

Organizational costs, e.g. paper, lawyer fees, banking charges

Ways of raising money

## **Behavior in a hockey rink**

Behavior of parents in regard to child, officials, coach, other parents.  
We need referees. Don't turn them away because of abuse.

Children should care for the arena;  
parents can help reduce vandalism.

Include your league's and your own philosophy, and any special rules regarding parents, e.g. seating location in the arena.

Short-term vs. long-term goals of child's involvement in hockey.

Coach's desire to establish communication with parents on a regular basis, e.g. hold semi-weekly meetings before or after a game.

This is an ideal time to distribute and discuss the Parent's Handbook, *You and Your Child in Hockey*.

## **Strategy, tactics and rules for this team**

(Explain your team's system by use of handouts and blackboards.)

Goals for the team: development, success

What will be stressed: offence, defence, skating.

Club rules and expectations, e.g. being at practice, arrival at rink before game.

Equal ice-time is not equivalent to fair ice-time.

## **How parents can help out with minor hockey**

Equipment repair.

Raising money, approaching sponsors.

Supervision in arena.

Typing, printing, bookkeeping.

Women's auxiliary.

Convenors.

## **Resource material**

CAHA Referee and Coaching Program Manuals.

OHA Technical Director's *Hockey Bulletin*.

OHC Handbook for Parents, *You and Your Child in Hockey*.

OHC Educational Handbook for Players, *Hockey — It's Your Game*.

OHC film, "Hockey Is ..." (24 minutes)

CAHA film, "Call Me Coach" (25 minutes)

CAHA Equipment Slides.



## Important addresses for resource materials

Technical Director's Office  
Ontario Hockey Association  
559 Jarvis Street  
Toronto, Ontario M4Y 2J1  
Tel: (416) 964-8655

Canadian Amateur Hockey Association  
333 River Road  
Ottawa, Ontario K1L 8B9  
Tel: (613) 746-0060

Ontario Hockey Council  
Sports and Fitness Division  
77 Bloor St. W., 8th Floor  
Toronto, Ontario M7A 2R9  
Tel: (416) 965-4591

### District Offices

Thunder Bay Area  
Secretary Manager  
T.B.A.H.A.  
258 Windsor St.  
Thunder Bay, Ontario  
P7B 1V6  
Tel: (807) 623-2711

Northern Ontario Region  
Secretary Manager  
N.O.H.A.  
100 Chippewa St. W.  
North Bay, Ontario  
P1B 6G2  
Tel: (705) 474-3770

South Western Ontario  
Secretary Manager  
O.M.H.A.  
56 Applefield Dr.  
Scarborough, Ontario  
M1P 3X9  
Tel: (416) 757-9538

Toronto  
Secretary Manager  
M.T.H.L.  
1415 Lawrence Ave. W.  
Toronto, Ontario  
M6R 1A9  
Tel: (416) 245-5311

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